
A. PERFIN WORTH \$4,000.00?

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In the September 2001 issue of The Perfin Bulletin (p. 118), John Lyding tells us about a Canadian cover bearing pattern IC/R which he describes as unique. Unfortunately (or fortunately, as you may consider it), this cover has at least one almost identical mate recently featured as the main item on the cover of Longley Auctions Sale #4, November 21, 2001. Also, at least three other covers with perfin pattern IC/R, each also almost identical to the cover shown by Lyding, are known to exist in collectors' hands.

I illustrate this surely rare (although not unique) cover below. If you will refer back to your September issue of the Bulletin and compare our cover with the H. W. Harrison cover, you will note many similarities which will at first make you think



That you are looking at the same cover. Harrison's cover has the corner card of the Intercolonial Railway of Canada at lower left -- as does the cover illustrated here. Also, there are two stamps on each of the two covers -- a Canadian small queen (Scott #37) and a 5c dark green registration stamp (Scott #F2). All bear the perfin pattern IC/R. Harrison's cover has a cancel dated DE 1 93 while the one illustrated here is dated AU 1 94. The illustrated cover has two strikes of the R in oval, designating a registered cover, while the one shown in the September Bulletin has just one strike.

Although we now know the cover illustrated in the September issue of TPB is not unique, it is unquestionably a gem. And so is the one shown here. And so are at least three other similar covers somewhere out there.

And now to the money angle: how much is a perfin cover like this worth? Longley Auctions values theirs (lot 128) at \$4,000.00 Canadian! At the current exchange rate this would run about \$2,600.00 U.S. A nice hefty sum any way you look at it for a perfin on cover. Add to this Longley's 15% buyer's premium --and you have a perfin asking to be noticed. Small wonder John Lyding noticed it!
